

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19-26 and 29 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19-26 and 29, at paragraph 3 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cohen (US 6,477,595 B1), in view of Shaffer (US 6,145,083). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

None of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 1. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest blocking logic responsive to detection logic, the blocking logic to selectively initiate a blocking signal to disable communications from a second interface to a wide area network connection from being sent over a first interface to a local network connection to an end-user computer, as recited in Claim 1. In contrast to Claim 1, Cohen discloses a system for connecting multiple DSL modems to a wide area network, in which a local modem (called CP modems) issues a signal to a modem (called CO modems) in a DSL multiplexer to go into a standby mode when the CP modem detects inactivity at an end station. (Cohen, col. 5, line 41-42, col. 11, line 1-3). Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer discloses a system to resolve conflicts between communication access capabilities and a screen saver, in which a computing device switches to a locked mode after a period of inactivity and can only be used for certain communications with a network while in the locked mode. (Shaffer, col. 2, line 43-45, col. 5, line 31-32.). Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent over a local area network (LAN) interface. Rather, the system disclosed by Shaffer is implemented *at* the end-user computer and only prevents communications from being accepted or sent by the end-user computing device. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each element of Claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-9 depend from Claim 1. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 1.

In addition, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 10. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest blocking data originating from a second wide area data network connection from being communicated to a first local data connection to establish a blocking condition, as recited in Claim 10. In contrast to Claim 10, Cohen discloses issuing a signal from a CP modem to a CO modem to go into a standby mode when the CP modem detects inactivity at an end station. (Cohen, col. 5, line 41-42, col. 11, line 1-3). Cohen does not disclose or suggest blocking communications between a wide area data network connection and a first local data connection. Shaffer discloses a computing device switching to a locked mode after a period of inactivity and restricting certain communications with a network while in the locked mode. (Shaffer, col. 2, line 43-45, col. 5, line 31-32.). Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent from a wide area data network over a local area network (LAN) interface. Rather, the system disclosed by Shaffer only prevents communications from being accepted or sent by the end-user computing device. Moreover, Shaffer is implemented at the end-user computing device and does not disclose blocking communications at routing equipment, as recited in Claim 10. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claim 10.

Claims 11-14 and 16-17 depend from Claim 10. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 10.

Further, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 19. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest blocking data received from a second port of digital subscriber line routing equipment from being communicated by a first port of the digital subscriber line routing equipment, during a first period of time, as recited in Claim 19. In contrast to Claim 19, Cohen discloses issuing a signal from a CP modem to a CO modem to go into a standby mode when the CP modem detects inactivity at an end station. (Cohen, col. 5, line 41-42, col. 11, line 1-3). As set forth above, Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer discloses a computing device that switches to a locked mode after a period of inactivity and restricts certain communications with a network while in the locked mode. (Shaffer, col. 2, line

43-45, col. 5, line 31-32.). Shaffer does not disclose detecting end-user computer inactivity at the first port of digital subscriber line routing equipment or blocking data received from a second port of the digital subscriber line routing equipment from being communicated by the first port of the digital subscriber line routing equipment. Rather, the system disclosed by Shaffer is implemented at the end-user computer and only prevents communications from being accepted or sent by such end-user computing device. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 19.

Claims 20-22 depend from Claim 19. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 19.

Additionally, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 23. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest blocking logic responsive to detection logic, the blocking logic to selectively initiate a blocking signal to selectively disable communications from being sent over a first interface to a local area network connection to at least one of a plurality of end-user computers in the local area network while allowing communications to be sent over the first interface to at least one other of the plurality of end-user computers in the local area network, as recited in Claim 23. In contrast to Claim 23, Cohen discloses a system for connecting multiple DSL modems to a wide area network, in which a local modem (called CP modem) issues a signal to a modem (called CO modem) in a DSL multiplexer to go into a standby mode when the CP modem detects inactivity at an end station. (Cohen, col. 5, line 41-42, col. 11, line 1-3). As explained previously, Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer discloses a system in which a computing device switches to a locked mode after a period of inactivity and can only be used for certain communications with a network while in the locked mode. (Shaffer, col. 2, line 43-45, col. 5, line 31-32.). Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent over a local area network (LAN) interface. Rather, the system disclosed by Shaffer is implemented at the end-user computer and only prevents communications from being accepted or sent by the end-user computing device. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each element of Claim 23.

Claims 24-25 depend from Claim 23. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 23.

Further, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 26. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest selectively blocking data originating from a wide area network data connection from being communicated to one or more of a plurality of inactive end-user computers while allowing data originating from the wide area network data connection to be communicated to at least one of the plurality of the end-user computers that remains in an active state, as recited in Claim 26. As explained previously, Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent over a local area network (LAN) interface. Rather, the system disclosed by Shaffer is implemented at the end-user computer and only prevents communications from being accepted or sent by the end-user computing device. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each element of Claim 26.

Claim 29 depends from Claim 26. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of Claim 29, at least by virtue of its dependency from Claim 26.

Claims 5, 18 and 27-28 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 5, 18 and 27-28, at paragraph 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cohen (US 6,477,595 B1), in view of Shaffer (US 6,145,083), and in view of Evans (US 6,807,666). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 5, 18, and 27-28 depend from Claims 1, 10 and 26, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Evans does not disclose or suggest the elements of Claims 1, 10 and 26, which are not disclosed or suggested by Cohen and Shaffer. Thus, Claims 5, 18, and 27-28 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claims 1, 10 and 26.

Additionally, none of the cited references, including Cohen, Shaffer and Evans, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 5. As explained previously, Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent over a local area network (LAN) interface. In contrast to Claim 5, Evans teaches a user configurable period of inactivity after which the user's computer switches to a logon screen. (Evans, col. 5, line 31-34). Evans does not teach a user configurable period of inactivity after which blocking logic initiates a blocking signal to disable communications received from a second interface to a wide area network connection from being sent over a first interface to a local area network connection to the end-user computer, as recited in Claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen, Shaffer and Evans fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claim 5.

Further, none of the cited references, including Cohen, Shaffer and Evans, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 18. As explained previously, Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent over a local area network (LAN) interface. In contrast to Claim 18, Evans teaches a user configurable period of inactivity after which the user's computer switches to a logon screen. (Evans, col. 5, line 31-34). Evans does not teach receiving user defined idle time information and modifying an idle time inactivity threshold after which blocking logic initiates a blocking signal to disable communications received from a second interface to a wide area network connection from being sent over a first interface to a local area network connection to the end-user computer, as recited in Claims 10 and 18. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen, Shaffer and Evans fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claim 18.

In addition, none of the cited references, including Cohen, Shaffer and Evans, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claims 27-28. As explained previously, Cohen does not teach or disclose blocking communications to an end-user computer. Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking signal or disabling communications from being sent over a local area network (LAN) interface. In contrast to Claim 27, Evans teaches a *single* computer that can be shared by multiple users, in which the computer switches to a logon screen after a period of inactivity. (Evans, col. 5, line 31-34, 59-60). Evans does not disclose or suggest detecting

resumed activity from one or more of a plurality of end-user computers previously in an inactive state, as recited in Claims 27 and 28. Moreover, Evans does not disclose or suggest allowing communications from a wide area network data connection to be sent to the one or more of the plurality of end-user computers previously in an inactive state, after blocking data originating from a wide area network data connection from being communicated to the one or more of the plurality of inactive end-user computers, as recited in Claims 27 and 28. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen, Shaffer and Evans fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claims 27-28.

Claims 7, 15 and 30 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 7, 15 and 30, at paragraph 5 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cohen (US 6,477,595 B1), in view of Shaffer (US 6,145,083), and in view of Gerszberg (US 6,510,152 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 7, 15, and 30 depend from Claims 1, 10 and 26, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Gerszberg does not disclose or suggest the elements of Claims 1, 10 and 26, which are not disclosed or suggested by Cohen and Shaffer. For example, Gerszberg does not teach blocking logic responsive to detection logic, the blocking logic to selectively initiate a blocking signal to disable communications from the second interface from being sent over the first interface to the end-user computer, as recited in Claim 1. Gerszberg also does not teach blocking data originating from the second wide area data network connection from being communicated to the first local data connection to establish a blocking condition, as recited in Claim 10. Similarly, Gerszberg does not teach blocking data originating from a wide area network data connection from being communicated to the one or more of a plurality of inactive end-user computers, as recited in Claim 26. Thus, Claims 7, 15, and 30 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claims 1, 10 and 26.

Further, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Cohen, Shaffer and Gerszberg. Cohen discloses a system for connecting multiple DSL modems to a wide area network, in which a local modem (called CP modems) issues a signal to a modem (called CO modems) in a DSL multiplexer to go into a standby mode when the CP modem detects inactivity at an end station. (Cohen, col. 5, line 41-42, col. 11, line 1-3). Shaffer discloses a system in which a computing

device switches to a locked mode after a period of inactivity and can only be used for certain communications with a network while in the locked mode. (Shaffer, col. 2, line 43-45, col. 5, line 31-32.). In contrast, Gerszberg discloses a "set-top box" to allow an interexchange carrier to access telephone lines or cable lines before those lines enter the switching technology of local telephone carriers. (Gerszberg, col. 2 lines 27-43). Gerszberg does not address the blocking of data to an end user computer from a wide area network. Furthermore, Gerszberg does not address and is not related to the area of multiplexing multiple DSL modems, as described by the Cohen patent. Accordingly, there is no motivation, teaching or suggestion for one of skill in the art to combine the Cohen and Gerszberg references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection of claims 7, 15, and 30 is an improper hindsight combination based on Applicants' disclosure. Hence, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

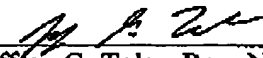
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

4-11-2006
Date


Jeffrey G. Toler, Reg. No. 38,342
Attorney for Applicant(s)
TOLER SCHAFFER, L.L.P.
5000 Plaza On The Lake, Suite 265
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5575 (fax)